

In-Fur-Nation

Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 18, Number 2

All The News We Get, We Print!

Spring, 2007



< Tim Fay accepting Kyell Gold's Ursula Major Awards on behalf of Sofawolf Press, May 4, 2007, at CaliFur.3. >

"**Ha! I Still Got It!**" Splinter, elderly ninja master rat, in Warner Brothers' *TMNT*.

Spring is spring-ing, all around us. As the birds come back from who-knows-where, we present some cool furry news we think you'd like to know!

The Ursula Major Awards (for the Best in Anthropomorphics in 2006)

On May 4th, the annual Ursula Major Awards were presented at CaliFur.3 in Costa Mesa, California. More formally known as the Annual Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Award, the Ursula Major Award is presented annually for excellence in the furry arts. It is intended as Anthropomorphic (a.k.a. Furry) Fandom's equivalent of the Hugo Award® presented by the World Science Fiction Society, mystery fandom's Anthony Award, horror fandom's Bram Stoker Award, and so forth. The Ursula Majors are presented by the Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Association (ALAA). Nominations for the awards are open to the public. Eligibility in ten categories is for works featuring intelligent and/or talking animals first

published during the calendar year in question (in this case, January through December of 2006). The winners were chosen by popular vote from five finalists in each category. Votes came in from more than a dozen countries around the world! The physical award was designed by Heather Bruton.

And, the Ursula Major winners for 2006 were:

- **Best Anthropomorphic Motion Picture** – *Over The Hedge* (Dreamworks Animation, released in May of 2006)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Dramatic Short Work or Series** – *Hammy's Boomerang Adventure* (Dreamworks Animation)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Novel** – *Pendant of Fortune*, by Kyell Gold (published by Sofawolf Press)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Short Story** – "Jacks to Open", by Kyell Gold (www.furrag.com)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Other Literary Work** – *A Domain of Our Own, Volume 1* by Susan Rankin (Plan Nine Publishing)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Comic Book** – *i.s.o.* by Vince Suzukawa (Issues #1 and #2)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Comic Strip** – *Ozy and Millie*, by D.C. Simpson (on-line daily comic strip)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Fanzine** – *Anthrolations* (Published by Sofawolf Press)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Published Illustration** – Sara Palmer for the front cover of *Pendant of Fortune* by Kyell Gold
- **Best Anthropomorphic Game** – *Okami* (designed by Clover Studios and published by Capcom)

Our congratulations to each of the winners! The award plaques were presented to each of them by mail (and some by hand!) following the ceremony. From the Ursula Major Awards staff: Our thanks to the many folks who helped to set up the awards, and our special thanks to everyone who sent in nominations or voted! Tell your friends to do the same! To find out more about the Ursula Major Awards, including how to make recommendations and nominations, visit www.ursulamajorsawards.org. Or, write to: The Ursula Major Awards, c/o Rod O'Riley, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958 to send recommendations or request more information. Official nominations will open in January, 2008. Keep your eyes on upcoming issues of *In-Fur-Nation* for more about the Ursula Major Awards for 2007!

The News

The furry and fantasy artist known to many as **Dark Natasha** was involved in a car accident in early May, when an SUV ran a red light and smacked into her small car. She suffered a cracked pelvis and various cuts and bruises, but as of this writing she is resting at home and recovering well. Her appearance at various furry and science fiction conventions this summer has been called into question, though, depending on how fast she heals. [Bright blessings on you, my lady - ye ed-otter! Speaking of the lady, make sure to check out *Tales of the Fur Side* from United Publications (www.up1.co.uk/Details/f0552) featuring illustrations by **Dark Natasha** to short stories and poetry by Vixxy Fox.

Warner Brothers' new *TMNT* franchise showed nice green legs early on, coming in at #1 at the box office its premier weekend in March (over several more "adult-oriented" films) and staying in the top five for several weeks afterward. Mostly animated by Korean CGI studios, the film had a modest production budget and is likely to find its way into the black.



< Image c. 2007 Dreamworks >

The predicted Big Cartoon Movie of this summer (for those not busy watching superheroes, pirates, or boy wizards) is *Shrek the Third* from Dreamworks. This third outing for the big ogre and his friends features many of your favorite characters and voice actors, now with the addition of **Justin Timberlake** as a young King Arthur - whom Shrek winds up unwillingly in charge of. The fun starts on May 18th. Expect the standard flood of tie-in merchandise to hit stores soon, including the hardcover *Shrek: The Art of an Animation Classic*, which actually covers the making of all three *Shrek* films. (It's available this coming fall.)

Coming right at the start of summer is *Surf's Up* from Sony Pictures Animation. Working from the novel concept that penguins invented surfing (and running with it!), this CGI film uses a "mockumentary" style to follow a camera crew as they go behind the scenes at the Penguin World Surfing Championship. Hitting theaters this June 8th, *Surf's Up* was directed by **Chris Buck** - who previously co-directed Disney's *Tarzan* and worked as an animator on such films as *Chicken Little* and *Home on the Range*. This new film features the voices of **Shia LaBeouf**, **Jon Heder**, **Jeff Bridges**, **Michael McKeon**, **Zooey Deschanel**, and **James Woods**. Check out the official *Surf's Up* movie web site at <http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/surfsup/index.html> and look for *Surf's Up: The Art and Making of a True Story by Cody Maverick* (in hardcover, published by Insight Editions).



< Image c. 2007 Disney/Pixar >

New trailers have revealed more about the actual plot of *Ratatouille*, the new Pixar film for 2007 directed by **Brad Bird** (the of *Iron Giant* and *The Incredibles*). It seems there's this rat named Remy living in Paris, France, who loves good food - so much so that he's memorized many of the cooking techniques he's seen in the restaurant his family lives beneath. Of course, the humans in the restaurant aren't exactly interested in having a culinary rodent in their kitchen - except, that is, for one desperate young human who sees Remy as his chance to succeed in becoming a great chef. Want to find out more? Take a look at the new trailer at www.comingsoon.net/news/movienews.php?id=19531. Featuring the voices of **Brad Garrett**, **Patton Oswalt**, **Ian Holm**, **Brian Dennehy**, **Janeane Garofalo**, and **Peter O'Toole**, *Ratatouille* comes to theaters June 29th. Right on schedule, *The Art of Ratatouille* hardcover (edited by **Karen Paik**) is available on bookshelves now.

But, all is not fun and games at the House of Mouse right now. A considerable stir was created when **John Lasseter** and **Ed Catmull** (of Pixar) removed **Chris Sanders** from the director's chair of his upcoming project, *American Dog* (later *Hollywood Dog*). Mr. Sanders, you may recall, was the writer and co-director of the original *Lilo & Stitch* - which forever cemented his place in the hearts of both furry and Disneyana fans. But the word is that Mr. Lasseter (in his new role as head honcho at Disney Animation) looked at the story for *American Dog* and felt it was "too quirky for our own good". Even after re-tooling the story as *Hollywood Dog*, they still didn't like the direction things were going. And so Mr. Sanders found himself out of a job. Now rumors are flying up, down, and sideways about what are the future prospects for this film, who will be the new director, and (of course) what Chris Sander's next move will be. We'll fill you in as soon as we have something solid.

And yet more Disney... fun? *My Friends Tigger and Pooh* is a new show aimed at preschoolers, premiering in May on the Disney Channel. Most of the well-known characters from the 100-acre wood are on hand in this new educational series, but one very notable character is not: Christopher Robin. He's been replaced by a 6-year-old girl named Darby who, along with her dog Buster, leads the Pooh crew on learning adventures. That, and the fact this new series in produced in CGI, has some traditional animation and A.A. Milne fans crying foul. But, counter the producers (Brian Hohlfeld and Don MacKinnon), this new series is aimed at very young children who may well be seeing the Pooh characters for the first time, and who will not be familiar enough with the "old" versions to recognize the changes. Are they right? Time will tell...

Speaking of TV for preschoolers: **Richard Scarry's** well-known *Busytown* books (starring Huckle the Cat and Lowly

the Worm, among many other funny animal species) have once again been adapted as a new animated series entitled *Hurray for Huckle!*. The new series is animated by Cookie Jar Entertainment (formerly Cinar, which animated the first *Busytown* series), and is currently seeking distribution in North America.

Many other new animated TV series aimed at the kid market were premiered at this year's MIPTV industry showcase, too. Among them: *Lamimila* from Taffy Entertainment (cut-out animation following the adventures of a giraffe, a rabbit, and a bear), *Iggy Armbuckle* (about a nature-loving daredevil young pig and his very nervous beaver friend), *Farmkids* (a CGI show about young city animals forced to adapt to country life), *Life's A Zoo* from Cuppa Coffee (a stop-motion animation "reality TV" show about a zoo full of animals competing to reach "the top of the food chain"), and *Pat & Stan* (featuring a hippo-and-dog buddy team who recently became very popular on YouTube.com). All of these shows and more are discussed in the May 2007 issue of Animation Magazine.

Here's a title you'll notice: *I Was A High School Dinosaur*. And it perfectly describes this new series from DIC Entertainment as well. Three high school kids are granted the power to transform into big, mighty dinosaurs. They use their new powers to fight against a villain trying to accelerate global warming to bring back the Jurassic age!

Videos and DVDs

The first season of Warner Brothers (somewhat controversial) cartoon TV series *Loonatics Unleashed* is out in a two DVD boxed set from Warner Home Video. Far in the future, the descendants of the classic Warner Brothers cartoon characters - now charged up with super-powers following the aftermath of a meteor collision (don't ask) - battle against evil forces. Speaking of Warner Home Video, this May look for the movie adaptation of *Eragon* on DVD, starring **Jeremy Irons**, **Robert Carlyle**, **John Malkovich**, and one very pretty CGI dragoness named Saphira.

Also coming soon on DVD: Season One of *Silverwing* (from Funimation), based on the best-selling youth fantasy books by **Kenneth Oppel**. Here's the story: After remaining neutral in the ancient war between the birds and the beasts, bats have found themselves exiled to the night for centuries. But now a young bat named Shade Silverwing has dared to view the sun, thus bringing down the wrath of the tyrannical owls.

This June, look for *Tex Avery's Droopy: The Complete Theatrical Collection* on DVD from Warner Home Video. Featuring 24 of the droll doggie's animated shorts from 1943 to 1958, re-mastered and unedited.

Comics

New on the shelves from Antarctic Press is *Dino Wars: Extinction Files* by writer and artist **Rod Espinosa** (*Courageous Princess*). When Earth is attacked by anthropomorphic dinos from outer space, it's up to a determined band of humans - and their allies, a more peaceful faction of the dinos - to defeat the invaders. The full-color *Extinction Files* mini-series provides background information, characters designs, and other helpful stuff for the main

Dino Wars series. This June, the collected *Dino Wars Pocket Manga Volume 1* hits the shelves, collecting issues #1 - #4 of the series.

Out now from Ape Entertainment comes *Teddy Scare #1*, based on the popular toy line. You better be nice to your toys, because zombie teddies have risen from the grave! This full-color comedy/horror is written by **Jim Hankins**, and features art by **Ben Roman** and **Drew Rausch**.

Not so much an on line comic strip as a comic book posted on line, one page at a time. That's how creator **John Scharamen** describes *Persona Animus*. Here's the idea: Elise and Moira, sent to negotiate with a remote barony, find something far more dangerous than a rebellion in the offing. Can a single mouse and doe succeed where all others have failed? Or will they fall prey to a sinister plot that may rob them, and an entire country, of their very minds? Visit www.sankam.net/PA_Top.html to find out!

From Image Comics: **Robert Kirkman**, the fan-favorite writer of *The Walking Dead*, *Invincible*, *Ultimate X-Men*, and *Marvel Zombies*, is teaming up with rising star artist **Jason Howard** for an all-new Image series, and everyone involved is so sure you'll be hooked, they're giving you the first issue on Free Comic Book Day! *The Astounding Wolf-Man* tells the story of workaholic CEO Gary Hampton, who is bitten by a werewolf while on a rare family vacation. Cursed to live out his nights as a werewolf, Gary seeks to find a positive purpose in his horrific new existence. But can a werewolf be a hero? *The Astounding Wolf-Man* is about one man's struggle to do good when his body is designed for evil.

Books and Trade Paperbacks

The world of New Tibet returns in *Common and Precious*, the first novel (though the third book) in the New Tibet series by **Tim Susman** (published by Sofawolf Press). The first two books were, of course, short story collections, and this new novel takes things down a different path: The animal-people of this frozen colony world are beginning to settle in to their new home finally, at least some of them. In fact, some of them are so comfortable they're willing to threaten any of those who might try to make change come to this new world! The book is available on Amazon.com.

The Art of Bone by **Jeff Smith** presents never-before and rarely-seen artwork, outlines, and entire stories from the award-winning comic series *Bone*. This new full-color hardcover collection (on the shelves now from Dark Horse Press) features 200 pages of sketches, promotional art, early story concepts and character designs, holiday cards, and other peeks into the creative process behind this famous self-published comic that went on to revitalize the industry itself.

Asp Comics has collected together the first series of **David Petersen's** acclaimed *Mouse Guard* stories in a new full-color hardcover book, *Mouse Guard Volume 1: Fall 1152*. Saxon, Kenzie, and Leam, members of the fearless Mouse Guard, are dispatched to find a missing merchant mouse. They find much more than they expect though, stumbling across what may be a traitor in the ranks of the guard itself. The 192-page collection also features new bonus material.

Real life furries, of a sort: In the early 1960's, both the USA and the Soviet Union were sending animals into space, testing the viability of spaceships to take off and return safely with human pilots. *First in Space*, a new black & white graphic novel by **James Nining** (published by Oni Press), follows the true story of Ham, a chimpanzee the Americans trained for the first sub-orbital spaceflight.

The "Warriors" series of feline fantasy books by **Erin Hunter** (actually a collective name for the authors **Kate Cary**, **Cherith Baldry**, and **Victoria Holmes**) has been turned into a new mini-series of manga graphic novels, available now from Tokyo Pop. Adapted (from the original books) by **Dan Jolley**, and with art by **James Barry**, this full-color series is available now. You can learn more about the manga and the original novel series at www.warriorgats.com.

Korgi, Volume 1 is a new black & white trade paperback by former Disney animator **Christian Slade**, released by Top Shelf Productions. A young girl named Ivy and her welsh corgi named Sprout find mystery and adventure one day, in the deep woods near their home. Find more of Mr. Slade's illustrations and sketches at www.sladestudio.com. Also from Top Shelf: "An ensemble cast straight from a box of Animal Crackers" is how *Previews* describes *Spiral Bound*, a new black & white graphic novel/trade paperback by **Aaron Renier**. This new writer/artist comes on the scene with a style much like **Richard Scarry**, but with a post-modern edge.

Sasquatch is the name of a new black & white paperback comic anthology dedicated to - you guessed it - Bigfoot and the Abominable Snowman - also known as Sasquatch and the Yeti, respectively. Edited by **Josh Howard** and published by Viper Comics (www.vipercomics.com), this trade paperback features stories from a variety of comic artists and writers, ranging from violent horror stories to poignant environmental fables to children's fantasy tales, all featuring Sasquatch and his kind interacting - for better or for worse - with humanity.

And speaking of big ape-like things... Twomorrows Publishing presents the *Comics Gone Ape!* soft-cover trade paperback. From the publisher: "They may be only one notch below humans on the evolutionary ladder, but gorillas and monkeys have for decades climbed to the top of the comic-book world as monsters, super-villains, sentient masterminds, soldiers, aliens, buffoons, and super-heroes. *Comics Gone Ape!* is the definitive missing link to everything you need to know about these popular primates, including Gorilla Grodd, Beppo the Super-Monkey, BrainApe, King Kong, Titano the Super-Ape, Cy-Gor, Konga, Magilla Gorilla, Detective Chimp, Blip, Gleet, the Gibbon, Lancelot Link Secret Chimp, Mojo Jojo, Angel and the Ape, and a barrel of others. *Comics Gone Ape!*'s loaded with comics artwork, a chest-thumping gallery of comics covers featuring apes, and behind-the-scenes looks at *Planet of the Apes*, *Arthur Adam's Monkeyman and O'Brien*, and *Joe Kubert's Tarzan* [and many other ape and monkey titles - ye ed-otter]. With its all-new Avengers-as-gorillas cover by **Arthur Adams**, you won't be able to keep your filthy paws off this book!" It's on the shelves now.

Following in the paw-steps of *Storyboards - Motion in Art* [check out our Winter 2007 issue] comes *Prepare to Board!* by **Nancy Beiman** (Focal Press), a guide to "Creating

Story and Characters for Animated Features and Shorts". Ms. Beiman (who worked as a storyboard artist on such films as *A Goofy Movie*, *Fantasia 2000*, *Hercules*, and *Treasure Planet*) discusses not only the use of storyboard drawings and quick thumbnail sketches, but also delves into character designs and "story beats" (animation timing). She also covers pitching storyboards, assembling story reels, and modeling characters in a 3D environment.

Another title you're likely to notice: *Long-Time Listener, First-Time Werewolf*, an omnibus collection of the first three "Kitty" novels by **Carrie Vaughn**. When late-night DJ Kitty Norville is bitten by a werewolf, she takes advantage of her new situation in an unusual way. She starts the world's only call-in radio show for vampires, werewolves, witches and other creatures of the night. Unfortunately, her success doesn't sit well with the local alpha werewolf, the head of the vampire clan - or the people who make it their business to hunt down and kill creatures of darkness!

This May, Image Comics presents the *Tellos Colossal Hardcover*, a complete collection of **Todd Dezago** and **Mike Wieringo**'s celebrated full-color fantasy comic book series. Two humans, a young boy named Jarek and a pirate princess named Serra, join up with a mighty tiger warrior to defeat an evil wizard-king... assisted by (among others) a turtle wizard, a fox thief, and surfer-dude-speaking dragons.

Okay, check this out: *The Rabbi's Cat* by **Joann Sfar**, a new full-color trade-paperback published by Pantheon Books. After eating the family parrot, a rabbi's cat gains the power of speech (!). What's more, he announces his intention to study the kabbalah and become versed in Jewish mysticism. This rather upsets the rabbi, though it delights his young adult daughter - and much debate ensues, on spiritual matters big and small.

An item of historical interest: *Felifax the Tigerman* comic trade paperback, collecting the black & white works of **Paul Feval**. It's been translated from the French by **Brian Stableford**, and published by Hollywood Comics. The story (first published in 1929) follows world-traveling adventurer who discovers a half-man, half-tiger creature in the jungle - a creature who may be a creation of science run wild.

Video game fans might want to check out *Kingdom Hearts: Characters Report Volume 1*. It features background information on 83 characters shown in 10 different worlds from all three versions of the game - classic Disney characters, as well as characters created for the game universe. It's available as a Japanese import.

Gon, **Masashi Tanaka's** little dinosaur with a big attitude, returns this June in *Gon, Volume 1* by CMX. This latest (and largest) collection of Gon's adventures includes 148 pages of Tanaka's highly-detailed black & white illustration style in a full-sized trade paperback.

Try this on. Here's the description of the *Zembia, Volume 1* trade paperback, published by Hexagon Comics: "Raised by lions deep in the jungles of the Western African Republic of Karunda, Zembia has the power to converse with the beasts of the jungle and has sworn to preserve the ecological sanctity of his adopted land". Okay... it's also brought to you (in black & white digest format) by **Oneta, Formosa**, and **Kubert**.

More French comics: The *Betty Blues* graphic novel by **Renaud Dillies** (published by Editions Paquet). Little Rice Duck has a talent for playing the trumpet. But, when his lady love Betty is seduced by a rich and sinister cat, Little Rice finds himself in a test of faith.

Trickster beings – Old Coyote, Anansi, Br'er Rabbit, and more – have been an important part of folklore from around the world for centuries. Taking off from that basic concept, Editors **Ellen Datlow** and **Terri Windling** have collected a group of authors to write short stories on the trickster theme, and they've collected them together in a new juvenile anthology called *The Coyote Roads*. Coming this June from Viking Juvenile, the book features authors like **Holly Black**, **Charles de Lint**, **Ellen Klages**, **Kelly Link**, **Patricia A. McKillip**, and **Jane Yolen**.

Here's a different sort of an idea: Defenders of Wildlife (a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting endangered wildlife and the habitat it needs to survive) has created a new information web site, www.youngwild.org. In addition to providing opportunities for you to help preserve wildlife and wildlife habitats, the site offers a unique gift. Submit a picture of yourself (.jpg format) and choose one of several animals listed on the site. The You Wild site will then generate a "morphing picture" that smears your features into that of the animal, and back again, repeatedly. Try it!

< From [www.wyrnkeep.com:](http://www.wyrnkeep.com/) >

The *Inherit the Earth* web comic reached its 100th strip on April 24th, 2007. The authors, **Allison Hershey** and **Joe Pearce**, would like to thank all our readers their support. The strip can be found at www.InheritTheEarth.net. The first issue of the *Inherit the Earth* comic book (which collects strips 1-54) will be available the first week in May. The comic book can also be purchased at www.InheritTheEarth.net. The computer adventure game *Inherit the Earth: Quest for the Orb* has gone mobile with the release of the Pocket PC version. It's also available for Windows, Mac OS X and Linux from the publishers web site: www.wyrnkeep.com.

Obituaries

Gerald "Jerry" Perkins (1944 – 2007) passed away March 30th. Jerry was quite open about having diabetes, but complications from undiagnosed cancer appear to be the cause of death. He had only been retired for two years. For many years Jerry had been a familiar face at science fiction, comic book, and furry conventions – right back to the very first furry parties in California. His survey of the furry subculture was the first of its kind. He was an avid photographer, with one of the best records of west coast masquerades and likely the best archive of fursuits there is. He was also a prolific and accomplished writer. He was already well-known in furry fandom for his thoughtful extrapolation of anthropomorphic societies when **Chuck Melville** and **Edd Vick** commissioned him to create stories featuring his character Ironhand for a series of anthologies based on the *Furkindred* universe. His work in the genre has appeared in just about every magazine of note, including *Yar!, Mythagoras*, and *Tales of the Tai-Pan Universe*. Gerald's work was finding wider distribution in a number of science fiction & fantasy magazines and anthologies, including a pair of stories for the *Sword and Sorceress* series, and in *Aboriginal SF*. At the time of his death he was working on a new story for *Sword and*

Sorceress and on a novel, *DEA*, written with **Baron Engel**. [Thanks to Edd Vick for his help with this piece – ye ed-otter]

"No, I'm not playing hard to get, this just isn't one of those phone lines!" Donatello, help-desk consultant and turtle, in Warner Brothers' *TMN*.

Furry Stuff has ConFurence Stuff! The original ConFurence General Store (for ConFurences 0 – 10) has moved to the new Furry Stuff web portal. Check them out at www.furrystuff.com to find out more – soon, pictures of what's available will be up on-line. Three of the popular ConFurence T-Shirt designs are still available for a limited time: "Furries in Force" (black on honey-color) by **Eric Schwartz** from CF7, "Furries in Love" (black and pink on grey) by **Rachael Cawley** from CF9, and "Sydney's World" (Sydney on a colored globe on green) by **Ken Sample** from CF10. Plus, a very few of **Mitch Beiro**'s colorful "Furries in Space" T-shirts remain (write for sizes available). They also still offer the *ConFurence Seven Highlights Video*, as well as the *ConFurence Eight – Music and Mirth* and *ConFurence Nine – Furries in Love* highlights videos, and the special combination video from CF5 (*Furries in Space!*) and CF6 (*Magic and Transformation*). Not to mention many cool prints and extra Souvenir Books from past ConFurences! To find a complete list, visit the Furry Stuff web site, or send them an SASE at: Furry Stuff, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

Stay with the Herd! So, we hear you say, how do I keep up my Subscription to *In-Fur-Nation*? We're glad you asked! A subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even *more* of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! It's now brought right to your doorstep four times a year (winter, spring, summer, and fall), and still for just a whopping \$5.00 for a year's subscription. That's right, for a year. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the 'zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: In-Fur-Nation, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions: Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to its full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for free!

A Request to Our Readers: Hey, got a favorite comic or book store that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send them a copy of *In-Fur-Nation* each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that you would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! As an alternate: Know of any good comic zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

Guess what? In-Fur-Nation is looking for Field Reporters! As an on-going feature, we're going to present profiles of furry creators and furry-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to funny animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furries mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INF, and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] And hey, we're looking for **furry convention reviews and anecdotes** too! Send hard copies to the Furry Stuff address above, or you can e-mail your submission to **Rod O'Riley at rodso64@hotmail.com**.

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: For those who've been asking, ads in In-Fur-Nation come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958, or send email to rodso64@hotmail.com.

(Many thanks to all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Invaluable help was also received from the web masters of the various furry conventions out there.)

Furry (and sorta-furry) Conventions coming your way this summer!

Rocky Mountain FurCon (RMFC)

A brand-new furry convention taking place in Denver, Colorado from June 1st through June 3rd, 2007, at the Adams Mark Hotel. From their web site (www.rockymountainfurcon.org):

This will be Rocky Mountain Furcon's first year to celebrate anthropomorphics of all forms here in the Denver, Colorado area. Rocky Mountain Furcon will include special guests, art shows, panels and all kinds of social activities unique to the Colorado area. Our goal is to make this first convention a huge success by providing an opportunity for furrs in Colorado and surrounding states to experience the joy of a furry convention, without putting a large dent in their pocket book. Rocky Mountain Furcon is sponsored and made possible by the Mid-America Anthropomorphics and Arts Corporation.

The Guests of Honor for the first RMFC include the well-known illustrators **Goldenwolf**, **Dark Natasha**, and **Michele Light**. [Note - Dark Natasha's attendance depends on her recovery from a recent auto accident (see above).]

Rooms at the Adams Mark Hotel (located on the 16th Street Mall in downtown Denver) are available for \$119.00 per night (for one to two people) and \$129.00 per night (for three to four people). You can place phone reservations by calling 800-444-ADAM. Be sure to reference Rocky Mountain Fur Con in order to get the Convention rate.

Memberships to RMFC are available for \$50.00 at-the-door, with Sponsor and other special memberships available too. Visit their web site at www.rockymountainfurcon.org to find out more.

C-ACE 2007

Eastern Canada's premier art-based convention returns, one last time - still with plenty of furries on hand, but with a broader comic-arts emphasis. The final C-ACE runs June 8 - 10, 2007, at the Best Western Victoria Park Suites Hotel, 377 O'Connor Street, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2M2, Canada. At this point the hotel is FULL, so check out the forums on the C-ACE web site for more details about alternatives.

The Author Guest for 2007 is **Fiona Patton**, a fantasy writer known for her *Brion Realm* and *Warriors of Estervia* series. The Art Guest (and Costuming Guest) is **Andrew "Loopy" Pidcock**, well-known illustrator as well as the maker of the popular Korul al-Wassar - and other famous fur-suit characters.

Pre-registration for C-ACE is closed as of now. Full memberships will be \$45.00 at the door, with day passes available for \$25.00 (both Canadian dollars). Visit them at www.c-ace.org to find out more.

The Gathering of the Gargoyles 2007

The annual Gathering for fans of Disney's popular TV series *Gargoyles* now finds itself in Dixieland - specifically Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, in the foothills of The Great Smokey Mountains. The Gathering will be held June 22 - 25, 2007, at the Grand Resort Hotel, 3171 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee 37868. Rooms at the hotel are currently available for \$59.77 per night for 1 - 4 people. Presidential Suites are also available for \$109.77 per night. For reservations, call 1-800-251-4444 (and make sure to mention Gathering of the Gargoyles). The list of Confirmed Guests for this year includes **Greg Weisman** (Series Creator, Writer, and Supervising Producer) and **Thom Adcox** (the voice of "Lexington"). Besides the art show, costume contests, radio play and other traditional activities, the weekend will include a special-rate group trip to the nearby Dollywood amusement park!

Memberships are currently \$50.00, and can be purchased on line at the con web site until June 1, 2007. There are also tickets to the Banquet and Gathering T-shirts that can be purchased on line or at the door. To find out more, write to them (in the US) at: The Gathering of the Gargoyles, P.O. Box 584, Chuckey, TN 37841. Or, you can check out their web site at www.gatheringofthegargoyles.com/g2007.

Anime Expo 2007

Anime Expo, the largest gathering in North America for fans of Japanese animation and comics, returns to Long Beach, California from June 29th to July 2nd, 2007. Officially hosted by the Long Beach Convention Center, the Expo will also have events taking place at various hotels in the immediate area. As usual, Anime Expo features not only a giant dealer's room of anime-related products, but literally dozens of anime industry veterans as guest speakers - Not to mention tons of premier screenings and live performances. It's all yours for \$55.00 until May 31st, or \$60.00 at the door. Lower rates are available for single-day and two-day passes at the door, too. For more information, write The Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation, 1733 S. Douglass Road, Ste. G, Anaheim, CA 92806. Or, keep in touch with their ever-expanding guest and programming roster by visiting www.anime-expo.org.

Anthrocon 2007 - Looking to the Future!

The biggest furry fandom convention on planet Earth returns to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for another weekend of fanish events, July 5th-8th, 2007. Besides dances every night and perhaps the largest Den of Dealers in the fandom, this year Anthrocon boasts three major Guests of Honor: **Rob Paulsen** (voice actor known for *many* cartoon roles, including Gusto Gumm, Yakko Warner, Pinky, Experiment 625, and many more!), **Mark Evanier** (comic book and animation writer for many years, with credits including Gold Key Comics, *Garfield and Friends*, *Scooby Doo*, *Dungeons & Dragons*, and *Groo the Wanderer*), and **Carolyn Kelly** (daughter of *Foggo* creator **Walt Kelly**, who lately has been writing and drawing the current version of the strip herself). Plus a host of well-known furry artists, writers, and costumers as well, of course.

The associated hotels (yes, plural!) for Anthrocon are the Westin Convention Center Hotel (closer) and the Omni William Penn Hotel (a little further). Please note: As of this writing the Westin is *completely sold out* (except for suites) and the Omni Hotel is *nearly* sold out (likewise). Be sure to visit the Anthrocon web site (www.anthrocon.org) to find out more about how to reserve the remaining rooms, and also for information about alternative hotels in the vicinity!

Attending Memberships to Anthrocon 2007 are available for \$45.00 until June 15th, 2007, and go up to \$50.00 at the door. Sponsorships (with perks) are available for \$90.00 and Super-Sponsorships (with even *more* perks!) are available for \$175.00. Dealers' Room tables are also available – but running out fast! Visit the web site to find out more information, or, write to the con at: Anthrocon, P.O. Box 476, Malvern, PA 19355-0476.

ConnectiCon 2007

ConnectiCon is a relatively new general-fandom convention in Hartford, Connecticut – Covering science fiction, anime, and gaming fandom, it also has a particular affinity for web comic artists and readers. In fact, one of this year's Guests of Honor, **Rusty Haller**, is the creator of the popular furry web comic *Ace and Queenie* (www.aceandqueenie.com), which also runs in *Furrlough* from Radio Comix. Rusty has created a brand new web comic just for the convention, featuring ConnectiCon's official mascot, Bryanna Bunny.

This year's ConnectiCon will take place at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford from July 13th - 15th. The official hotel is the adjacent Hartford Marriot Downtown (200 Columbus Blvd). Rooms are \$130.00 per night for single or double occupancy. Call 866-373-9806 for reservations, and ask for the ConnectiCon room block.

Registration for the full convention is available for \$40.00 if postmarked by June 16th, 2007, and for \$50.00 thereafter at the door. Group discounts and one-day memberships are also available. Send checks or money orders to: ConnectiCon LLC, 705 North Mountain Road, Box B-11, Newington, CT 06111. Or, visit them at www.connecticon.com to find out more!

San Diego Comic Convention & CaliFur-Diego

One of the largest gatherings of fandom in the world (certainly in North America!), every summer hundreds of thousands of comic book, animation, and pop-culture fans descends on the San Diego shoreline for four days of fun and activities. The list of guests and industry professionals is too big to even try to list here. The Dealers' Room is, quite simply, the largest in existence: Literally hundreds of comic book publishers, artists, collectors, game designers, movie production companies and more, all spread out over (we're not kidding here) nearly a square mile. In among them, of course, are lots of companies and artists who do furry art – among them **Radio Comix**, **Antarctic Press**, **Mirage**, MU, **Stan Sakai**, and many many small press companies. This year Comic Con takes place July 26th - 29th, at the San Diego Convention Center. An Adult 4-day membership is \$65.00, with daily memberships ranging from \$15.00 (Sunday) to \$30.00 (Saturday). Visit their web site at <http://www.comic-con.org/index.php> for more information on all the events and activities.

If you're looking for some more furry stuff at SDCC, it's coming back! FENEC Adventures (the folks who bring you CaliFur each spring) will be putting on a special two-day Furry Party after the big convention on Friday and Saturday nights (July 27th and 28th). Nicknamed "CaliFur-Diego", this party takes place at a hotel just a few steps from the Convention Center! Lots of artists show up, and fur-suiters drop in too (yes we have a place to change). Furry dealers are welcome to set up and sell from their tables – there's no extra charge! CaliFur Diego takes place from 8:00 pm until they kick us out at the Horton Grand Hotel, 311 Island Avenue (corner of 3rd Street, 2 blocks north of the Convention Center). We're asking \$5.00 a person to cover the room expenses – but this is a donation, not an admission fee! No one will be turned away because they can't pay. Feel free to visit our wikifur site at http://furrywiki.com/wiki/CaliFur_Diego for more information.

Watch this space in our summer issue for more info about Anthrofest (July 27th - 29th in Montreal, Quebec, Canada), FA - United (August 10th - 12th in Newark, New Jersey), RainFurrest (August 24th - 26th in Seattle/Tacoma, Washington), Camp Feral (August 27th - 31st in Ontario, Canada), Mephit Furmeet (August 31st - September 2nd in Memphis, Tennessee), Euroturence (September 5th - 9th in Thuringia, Germany), The Western Pennsylvania Furry Weekend (October 5th - 7th in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), Fur Fright (October 19th - 21st in Waterbury, Connecticut), Oklacon (October 26th - 28th near Watonga, Oklahoma).

Kowabunga dudes and dudettes! Keep in touch with the world of Furry Fandom: Keep in touch with In-Fur-Nation! **We'll see you this July!** *Rod O'Riley, your humble ed-otter*



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PLEASE RECYCLE

Don't Play Dumb! You heard it here!



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